

RICE UNIVERSITY

**Passacaglia for Strings**

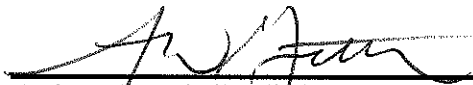
by

**Aleks Savitski**

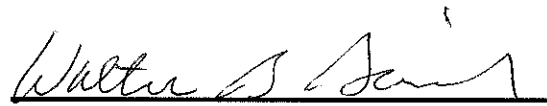
A THESIS SUBMITTED  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

**Doctor of Musical Arts**

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

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# ABSTRACT

## **Passacaglia for Strings**

by

**Aleks Savitski**

In **Passacaglia for Strings**, expressive relationships between the music in the foreground and the structural design of the piece are explored. The opening melody of the bass provides a harmonic foundation and the main source of musical material for the piece. Textural variety and changes in orchestration allow the bass player to frequently take the role of soloist, and to add a more expressive value to the melodies in the bass. The piece is ten (10) minutes in duration and consists of four sections (Section 1 mm.1-82; Section 2 mm. 83-145; Section 3 mm. 146-173; Section 4 mm. 174-233). The bass line plays a different role in each.

An equally important element of the work is the melody played by the first violin in the chorale section of the piece, especially its rhythmic character, as after several refrains in the first section, the primary bass line dissolves within the chordal texture of the chorale, and allows this secondary melody to become predominant for a while. It returns in the third section of the work, but with more agitation and, lastly, goes through a short imitative episode in the fourth section of the piece, where it completely adapts the rhythmic profile of the melody from the choral section. The harmonic context of the work is primarily dictated by the presence of six distinct vertical sonorities, which move to the foreground in the middle section of the piece. The work comes to an end when the opening bass line is

fully revealed in the foreground, and entirely transformed through its interaction with the melody from the chorale section.

# **Passacaglia for Strings**

**- for string orchestra or string nonet -**

**Aleks Savitski**

**2017**



10

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*mp* *sfz* *f* *pp*

*mp* *sfz* *f* *pp*

*p* *fp* *sfz* *f* *pp*

*p* *sfz* *f* *pp*

*f* *sfz* *p* *sfz* *f* *pp*

*ord.* *sfz* *p* *sfz* *f* *pp*

*f* *f* *sfz* *p* *sfz* *f* *sfz* *p* *sfz* *mp*

15

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*p* *ppp* *mp* *f* *sfz* *pp* *f*

*p* *ppp* *mp* *p* *f* *pp* *f*

*p* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *pp* *p* *f* *pp* *f*

*p* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *pp* *p* *f* *pp* *f*

*p* *p* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *f*

*p* *p* *mp* *mp* *f*

*p* *p* *pp* *f* *ppp* *f* *sfz* *ff* *f*

*espressivo* *espressivo* *espressivo* *espressivo* *appassionato*



30

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*molto agitato*

*f*

*p*

*sfz*

*mp*

*ord.*

*p*

*mp*

*sfz*

*p*

*fp*

*sfz*

*mp*

*sfz*

*p*

*mf*

*fp*

*sfz*

*ff*

*agitato*

**C**



33

Vn. I

pizz.

pp

mp

Vn. II

pizz.

pp

Vla.

pizz.

pp

solo, delicate arco

Vc.

pizz.

pp

solo, espressivo arco

D. B.

pizz.

pp

solo, espressivo

p

mf

f

pp

39

*agitato*  
*arco*

**D**

Vn. I

*mf* *fp* *f* *ppp*

*agitato*  
*arco*

*mf* *sfz* *p*

Vn. II

(pizz.)

*p* *mf*

(pizz.)

*p*

*tutti*  
*pizz.*

*p*

*semplice, delicate*  
*arco*  
*mp*

Vla.

(pizz.)

*p*

(pizz.)

*p*

*tutti, agitato*

*pp* *p* *f* *p* *pp*

*molto vib.*

*mp* *f* *pp* *p* *p*

*tutti*  
*pizz.*

*p*

*tutti*  
*pizz.*

*p*

*pizz.*

*f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

D. B.

*p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*



52

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*pizz.*

*arco*

*espressivo*

*pp*

*p*

*f*

*sfz*

*agitato*

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

*f*

*sfz*

*p*

*f*

*sfz*

56

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*f*

*ff*

*pizz.*

*f*

*pizz.*

*f*

*pizz.*

*f*

*pizz.*

*f*

*pizz.*

*f*

*pizz.*

*f*

*pp*

*ppp*

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

*ppp*

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

*f*

*f*

*sfz*

*agitato, espressivo*

*3*

60

Vn. I

*p*

*pp*

*non cresc.*

*ppp*

*semplice, delicate*

Vn. II

*espressivo*

*arco*

*fp*

*f*

*sfz*

*pp*

*ppp*

Vla.

*arco*

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

*ppp*

Vc.

*arco*

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

*senza cresc.*

*mf*

*p*

*arco*

*mf*

*sfz*

*pp*

*senza cresc.*

*mf*

*sfz*

*p*

D. B.

*p*

*mp*

*ff*

*p*

*f*

*mf*

*p*

*f*

*molto agitato*

64

Vn. I

*mp*

*3*

*arco*

*p*

Vn. II

*3*

*p*

*sfz*

*pizz.*

*arco 3*

*sfz*

*mp*

Vla.

*3*

*p*

*sfz*

*pizz.*

*sfz*

*arco 3*

*mp*

Vc.

*3*

*p*

*sfz*

*sfz*

*pizz.*

*sfz*

D. B.

*ff*

*sfz*

66

Vn. I

*f ff p cresc.*

Vn. II

*f ff p cresc.*

Vla.

*p cresc.*

Vc.

*p cresc.*

D. B.

*p cresc.*

68

Vn. I

*sfz*

Vn. II

*sfz*

Vla.

*sfz*

Vc.

*sfz*

D. B.

*p f f*

[illegible]

85

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

93 **H** Maestoso ♩ = 84

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

This musical score page contains measures 93 through 100 of a piece in D major, marked Maestoso with a tempo of 84 beats per minute. The score is for a string quartet, with parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello/Double Bass. Measures 93-94 feature a crescendo from mezzo-piano (mp) to forte (f) for the Violin I and Viola parts, while the Violin II and Cello/Double Bass parts remain at mezzo-piano. In measure 95, the Violin I and Viola parts continue their melodic lines, while the Violin II and Cello/Double Bass parts play a rhythmic accompaniment. Measures 96-97 show a further crescendo for the Violin I and Viola parts, reaching forte by measure 98. The Violin II and Cello/Double Bass parts continue their accompaniment. Measures 99-100 conclude the section with a final forte chord for the Violin I and Viola parts, while the Violin II and Cello/Double Bass parts play a final rhythmic figure.

102 **I** Più mosso, appassionato  $\text{♩} = 100$

Vn. I *f* molto espress. *p* subito (pizz.)

Vn. II *mf* *p* subito (pizz.)

Vla. *mf* *p* subito

Vc. *mf* *p* subito (pizz.)

D. B. *p* pizz.

110

**J** Accel. . . . .

Vn. I

*mp cresc.*

*cresc.*

*arco*

Vn. II

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

Vla.

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

Vc.

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

D. B.

*cresc.*



Molto pesante ♩ = 132      Accel. . . . .

115

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

arco

arco

arco

**K** Con forza, non divisi ♩ = 160

119

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*ff* *f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* molto cresc. *ff sffz non dim.*

*ff* *f* *sfz f* *sfz* *sfz* molto cresc. *ff sffz non dim.*

*ff* *f* *sfz f* *sfz* *sfz* molto cresc. *ff sffz non dim.*

*ff* *f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* molto cresc. *ff sffz non dim.*

*ff f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* molto cresc. *ff sffz non dim.*

*ff f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* molto cresc. *ff sffz non dim.*

*ff f* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* molto cresc. *ff sffz non dim.*

127

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*ff* *sffz* *sffz* *sffz non dim.* *sffz*

*ff* *sffz* *sffz* *sffz non dim.* *sffz*

*ff* *sffz* *sffz* *sffz non dim.* *sffz*

*ff* *sffz* *sffz* *sffz non dim.* *sffz*

*sffz* *sffz* *sffz* *sffz non dim.* *sffz*

*sffz* *sffz* *sffz* *sffz non dim.* *sffz*

132

Vn. I

sim.

Vn. II

sim.

Vla.

sim.

Vc.

sim.

D. B.

sim.

133

134

135

136

137

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572

573



146

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*f* pizz. arco *pp* *sfz* *molto rubato* *f* 3 *sfz*

*pppp* pizz. *sfz* *pp*

*sfz* pizz. *sfz* *molto rubato* *molto vib.* *f* *fp* *f* *molto rubato* arco *sfz*

*sfz* pizz. *mp* 3

*sfz* pizz. *sfz*

151

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

pizz. *sfz* *espressivo* arco *sfz* *f* *sfz* *f*

*p* 3 *sfz*

*ppp* *pp non cresc.* *pp non cresc.* *pp non cresc.*

arco 3 *f* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *pp non cresc.*

pizz. *p* *pizz.* *p* *arco* *pp* (pizz.) *f*

*ff* *molto rubato* pizz. *mf* 3 *ff*

156

Vn. I

*ff* *sfz* *p* pizz.

Vn. II

*pp*

Vla.

*p* *f* *f* molto pesante

*senza cresc.*

Vc.

*f* *p* *f* *f*

D. B.

arco *p* *pp* *f* molto agitato *ff*

## **N** Con moto, l'istesso tempo

[illegible]

100

Vn. I

(pizz.)

*mf*

*f*

*sfz*

arco

*p*

*pp*

Vn. II

(pizz.)

*mf*

*f*

*sfz*

arco

*p*

*pp*

Vla.

(pizz.)

*mf*

*f*

*sfz*

arco

*p*

*mp*

*f*

Vc.

(pizz.)

*mf*

*p*

*sfz*

arco

*p*

*mp*

*f*

D. B.

*p*

*f*

*ff*

*molto espressivo*

*agitato*

18

[illegible]

174

O

Molto agitato ♩ = 144

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

arco

f

p

arco

f

p

arco

f

p

con fuoco

arco

fff

arco

f

p

(pizz.)

f

sfz

179

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

con fuoco

arco

f

ff

fff

con fuoco

arco

fff

f

fff

f

p

f

ff

arco

f

ff

f

mf







201

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

*pizz.*

*sul pont.*

*sul pont.*

*sul pont.*

*3*



**S** Con forza, l'istesso tempo

210

Vn. I

Vn. II

sul pont.

ppp

Vla.

f cresc.

f cresc.

Vc.

arco

ppp fff

D. B.

220

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

*fff*

*fff*

*ff*

*ff*

*sfz*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

[illegible][illegible]